compete on the basis of their inherent strengths and Capabilities.

(d) Such complaints are referred to the concerned State Governments as they are the nodal agency for the implementation of the Janta Cloth Scheme for which subsidy is given.

Statement

Details regarding the No. of mills closed in the country and in Gujarat, the number of workers, spindlage and homage as on 31-12-88.

	In Gujarat	All India
Total Cotton man-made fibres Textile Mills	119	1053
Closed Textile Mills		
Workers affected due to closures	35	138
	55634	169554
% of idle to total		
(a) Spindles	28%	14%
(b) Looms	30%	18%
(c) Workers	24%	14%

Soviet Assistance for Modernisation of Jute Industry

284. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for getting technical and commercial assistance from Soviet Union for modernisation-cum-diversification programme of Indian jute industry;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (c) Birla Jute and Industries Ltd. (India) and Odessa Jute Mills and other Soviet Participants (USSR) have agreed to establish a joint venture in India at Bally Jute Mills belonging to Birla Jute and Industries Ltd. and for this purpose necessary statements have been drawn up with regard to following:

(i) Production programme and projected profitability
(ii) Modernisation and Captial Expenditure
(iii) Projected balance-sheet and financial statements
(iv) Provision for taxation
(v) Details of profit and distribution of dividend including repatriation to U.S.S.R.
(vi) Maximise exports to U.S.S.R. and other countries. The new company named Birla Odessa Inds. Ltd. will be registered in Calcutta under Indian Laws.

Setting up of a Biosphere reserve in Great Nicobar Island

285**.** SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Island Development Authority has decided to set up a bios phere reserve in Great Nicobar Island; and

(b) if so, what are the salient feature thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRON' MENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Biosphere Reserve has been set up in Great Nicobar Island w.e.f. 6.1.1989.